Central Government, however, supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations through implementation of a number of schemes and programmes uniformly throughout the country. Funds under these schemes/ programmes are allocated scheme/programme-wise and not State/UT-wise.

Safeguarding the interest of SSIs

835. SHRIGIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been initiated to safeguard the interests of SSIs in the face of acute competition from global players in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) To safeguard the interests of small scale industries (SSIs) in the face of competition from global players, the Central Government has put in place appropriate trade-defence mechanisms, such as safeguards against surge of imports and anti-dumping measures, etc. In addition, several measures have been taken to help the SSIs become competitive, both in India and globally, which, *inter alia,* include schemes/programmes for technology upgradation, credit guarantee for laons up to Rs. 25 lakh, development of clusters, creating awareness among SSI by sensitising them to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation, reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification up to Rs. 75,000/-, reimbursement of registration fee upto Rs. 15,000/- for adopting bar coding of products, availability of collateral-free credit up to Rs. 5 lakh, etc.

Small and Medium Enterprises Bill

836. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward the long awaited 'Small and Medium Enterprises Bill' during the current session of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Small and Medium Enterprises Development (SMED) Bill, 2005 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on' 12th May, 2005.

Rehabilitation of disabled persons

837. SHRIMATIKAMLAMANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to rehabilitate these persons through various projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering to provide financial assistance, education and food to such persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Information is given as Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) There are various ongoing schemes/programmes for rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities. Details of the schemes/ programmes are available on the website *viz.* www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(d) and (e) Some of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations are providing unemployment allowance and/or disability pension to persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides soft term loans to persons with disabilities for self-employment. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides free education to children with disabilities upto the age of 18 years. Voluntary organizations are being supported for establishment of special schools to provide free education to children with disabilities. Three per cent reservation for persons with disabilities is also provided in admission to Government and Government aided educational institutions.